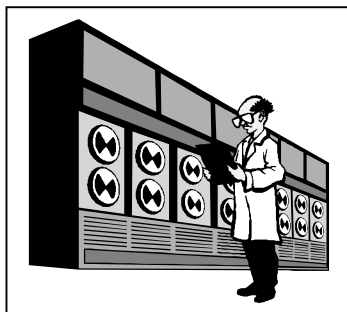


Chapter 3: Census Addresses

Section Summaries



How Addresses are used in the Census

The Census Bureau uses a nationwide list of addresses to support its many operations, such as: assuring that census questionnaires are delivered, making follow-up visits to addresses from which there has been no response, and preparing data tabulation.

Census Address List

The Census address list is a comprehensive file of all housing unit addresses nationwide, occupied or vacant. A Census address list record contains the mailing address and the ZIP Code of each housing unit, or the geographic location description of the housing unit. In areas that do not have house number and street name mail delivery, the Census address list record also contains a map spot number.

Types of Housing Units

The Census Bureau divides all addresses into two types, residential and non-residential. These addresses are then divided into various address types. Address List Review 1999 is working with addresses that are residential and are mostly not house number and street name mail delivery addresses.

How Addresses are used in the Census

The Census Bureau uses a nationwide list of addresses to support many of its operations, such as:

- Assuring that census questionnaires are delivered
- Making follow-up visits when no response comes back
- Preparing data tabulation

There are two primary methods for collecting Census 2000 data. In areas where house number and street name addresses are used for mail delivery, Census 2000 questionnaires are mailed to each address (housing unit) and the occupants are asked to fill out the questionnaire and mail it back to the Census Bureau. This is called the "Mail-out/Mail-back" methodology. In all other areas the questionnaires are hand-delivered by Census Bureau "enumerators." In most of these

areas the occupants are asked to fill out the questionnaire and mail it back to the Census Bureau. This methodology is called "Update/Leave" and corresponds to those areas where the Address Listing operation is being used to create the Census address list.

Census Address List

The Census address list is a comprehensive file of all housing unit addresses nationwide, whether they are occupied or vacant. Besides containing the mailing address and ZIP Code of each housing unit, a Census address list record includes geographic information telling us the location of the housing unit. In the areas where there are not house number/street name addresses used for mail delivery, the Census address list records may contain additional information, such as a map spot number that is linked to a specific location on Census Bureau's maps and a "location description," such as GRAY HOUSE W/ORANGE SHUTTERS ON ELK RD 1/2 MILE W OF COUNTY HWY A. In addition to these items, the Census address list also records a permanent identification number that is unique for each address. A partial list of abbreviations used by address listers is included in Appendix D.

The next step in the process is linking the address records in the Census address list to feature segments in the Census Bureau's TIGER data base. The TIGER data base includes the geographic coordinates and names of all streets, water features, railroads, and other linear features, as well as the boundaries of all jurisdictions and statistical areas used to tabulate decennial census data. The TIGER data base also includes address ranges along streets that have house number and street name addresses, and the hierarchy of census geographic area codes, from the state level down to individual census blocks. By linking the Census address list to the TIGER data base, the Census Bureau is able to identify the street segment along which an individual address exists, and thus determine the geographic codes that apply to that address. This process of assigning the address to this street segment is called "geocoding."

In areas without house number and street name addresses, the Census Bureau will create the Census address list and the geocoding process through a field operation called Address Listing. During Address Listing, Census Bureau employees called "address listers" will visit housing units in a designated area during the summer and fall of 1998 to obtain the mailing address, location description, occupant name, and telephone number, if available. They also will record the

geographic location for these residences, and note the location of the housing unit on a Census Bureau map, which geocodes the address.

Address List Review 1999 uses the results of the Address Listing operation to create the Block Housing Unit Summary List counts, the Census address list, and the Census Bureau maps with map spots. You will use these materials to tell us where the number of residential addresses in each census block is not correct; census blocks are discussed in Chapter 4. Residential addresses should not be confused with nonresidential addresses or commercial addresses.

Types of Housing Units

The Census Bureau divides all addresses into two use types, residential and nonresidential.

➤ **Residential Addresses:**

This is the address of a housing unit, that is, a structure where one or more people live or could live. The Census address list is designed to include the addresses of all housing units in the United States, regardless of whether they use house number and street name for mail delivery or not. The types of housing units on the Census address list include single-family homes, multi-unit dwellings such as apartment buildings, mobile homes and trailers, housing units that are part of a building containing a business, such as apartments above or beside a store, and structures such as garages or sheds that are being used as living quarters. Some structures contain both residential and nonresidential units, even though they have a single address. Therefore, it is very important that the occupant(s) living in a housing unit, that also is a commercial establishment, be identified for the Census address list.

➤ **Nonresidential Addresses**

This is the address of a structure or unit within a structure that does not serve as a residence, such as commercial establishments, schools, government offices, and churches.

The above-mentioned use types are further divided into address types.

➤ **House Number and Street Name Addresses**

The majority of housing units in the United States have a house number and street name address, for example, 212 Elm Street or 137 Clark Court, Apt. 316. The Census Bureau refers to these as

house number and street name addresses. Those addresses for housing units in multi-unit dwellings, such as apartment buildings, should contain a unit designator, for example APT 101. (See Appendix E for a list of within-structure designators and their appropriate abbreviations). The Census Bureau and the United States Postal Service (USPS) treat these designators as part of the housing unit address, and they are included in each affected Census address list record.

Not all house number and street name addresses are used for mail delivery. Some are used only so that local and tribal governments may provide emergency services, such as police, fire, and rescue service (these often are referred to as E-911 addresses). These addresses generally should **not** be within the area for which you are reviewing the Census address list in 1999.

➤ Non-house Number and Street Name Addresses

The Census Bureau classifies addresses that do not include a house number and street name as non-house number and street name, or map-spotted addresses. The majority of the non-house number and street name addresses are located in the more sparsely settled areas of the United States, however, they may exist in small and medium sized towns as well.

Frequently used non-house number and street name mailing addresses are:

- General delivery
- Rural route and box number
- Highway contract route and box number
- Post Office Box **only** delivery

Non-house number and street name addresses often do not follow any numeric sequence, and they are not associated with the name of the street or the highway on which they are located.

For this reason the Census Bureau uses different methods to compile the list of non-house number and street name addresses for inclusion into the Census address list, such as location descriptions and geographic coordinates.

Address List Review 1999 will be dealing with areas where non-house number and street name addresses are more prevalent.